**STAGE FLASH**

**Date: 20 April 2024
Day: 3
FlashN°: 10
Special stage: SS11 Vinski Vrh – Duga Resa 1
Distance: 8.78 km km
Weather: Overcast
Road conditions: Dry
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**Car #13. GRÉGOIRE MUNSTER/LOUIS LOUKA (FORD PUMA RALLY1)**

“It’s a very fast stage, also very slippery. Surely the last section you do a hairpin right and then very low grip Tarmac. Not that many cuts and also it’s good to be on the front but it’s not as dirty as yesterday so basically I am taking the cuts but nothing is coming on the road for the others, at least not a lot, but we enjoy. That’s the most important.”

**Car #9. ANDREAS MIKKELSEN/TORSTEIN ERIKSEN (HYUNDAI I20 N RALLY1)**

Smooth and clean to beat Munster by 0.2s. “I’m first time really attacking this stage in speed it’s run every year so I will struggle with the top pace because there’s so many crests and you have to place the car just perfect and then you can go so quick. Just missing that little bit of experience from the stage but we had a clean run.”

**Car #18. TAKAMOTO KATSUTA/AARON JOHNSTON (TOYOTA GR YARIS RALLY1)**

An interim stage lead is achieved as Katsuta goes 4.5s faster than Mikkelsen. “I could be a bit more committed, to be honest. It’s a bit of a rush before the stage so I was not fully focused on the beginning of the stage maybe, lost time mainly on there and at the end it was quite slippy also. Surprised it is still dry, the weather is quite good, so let’s see next one what will happen.”

**Car #16. ADRIEN FOURMAUX/ALEXANDRE CORIA (FORD PUMA RALLY1)**

A committed run through bests Katsuta by 1.3s “To be fair we did expect the rain so I’m trying also to manage a bit my tyres because it’s starting to be really warm so I don’t know what to expect on the next one. I did a clean stage but it’s really slippery in some stages but it’s really nice and enjoyable stage.”

**Car #8. OTT TÄNAK/MARTIN JÄRVEOJA (HYUNDAI I20 N RALLY1)**

Still on his original four wheels despite the incident on the previous stage, Tänak goes through cleanly on the soft tyres and lowers the bar by another 0.5s. “Normally it’s a nice stage, all these, let’s say, three little stages they’re fast and quite fun, so it feels sketchy in places, the grip is changing quite a lot, but an okay run.”

**Car #17. SÉBASTIEN OGIER/VINCENT LANDAIS (TOYOTA GR YARIS RALLY1)**

An awkward landing after a crest knocks the front right corner of the car and damages the aero, inducing a whiff of understeer, but Ogier goes faster than Tänak by 0.1s. “Small jump and I don’t know. Struggle with suspension (on the crests). Massive kick and then I had a big oversteer, very, very, close that the car don’t come back. Very close call.”“

**Car #33. ELFYN EVANS/SCOTT MARTIN (TOYOTA GR YARIS RALLY1)**

A less dramatic run shades Ogier by 0.7s. “It’s not easy, obviously, but we just need to drive and see what happens. Let’s see how it is now for the next one.”

**Car #11. THIERRY NEUVILLE/MARTIJN WYDAEGHE (HYUNDAI I20 N RALLY1)**

A swashbuckling approach to the short stage on soft tyres brings reward as Neuville wins the stage by 0.9s. “In such a short stage nine-teths (of a second) is a lot, I can tell you! So I’m really happy. I don’t think I can go any faster in here so I’m really happy.”

**Car #34. NIKOLAY GRYAZIN/KONSTANTIN ALEKSANDROV (CITROËN C3 RALLY2)**

No issues for the WRC2 leader. “We need to work for the next loop because Yohan is a really nice I would say circuit driver, he knows how to drive this really wide road when you need to be like a circuit driver. This is something what I learn from him and we need to work on it.”

**Car #20. YOHAN ROSSEL/ARNAUD DUNAND (CITROËN C3 RALLY2)**

Comes through the stage 1.2s faster than his team-mate. “It’s not bad – (Gryazin) did a mistake? It’s not bad for the moment, it keeps the pressure and let’s see but it’s still long. If he win this afternoon we need to keep the car on the road and let’s see but I push very well.”